

Thursday December 12 1996

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The Guardian INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

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46,734

The women who sort out crime

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OnLine

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To dissemble: 'To hide under a false appearance; to disguise; to conceal; to play the hypocrite.'

Willetts pays the price

New blow for Major as key player quits

David Hencke Westminster Correspondent

JOHN Major's disaster-prone government last night suffered another severe blow when high flying minister David Willetts unexpectedly quit his Cabinet Office job after a damning report accused him of effectively lying to a Parliamentary inquiry over his role in the "cash for questions" scandal.

Main points

- CONCLUSIONS of Committee on Standards and Privileges: Mr Willetts's original note of his conversation with Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith was broadly accurate. Mr Willetts did not seek out Sir Geoffrey, but he did attempt to influence him. Sir Geoffrey should not have participated in such a discussion. Mr Willetts should not have discussed the work of the Members' Interests Committee with its chairman. The conversation went "beyond what should properly have taken place." Much of Mr Willetts's memorandum and oral evidence to the committee could not be accepted "as being accurate". Mr Willetts did "dissemble" in his account to the committee. His response "substantially aggravated the original offence". Any future investigation into matters of privilege will be normal practice take evidence on oath.

plaints about the conduct of members, it will be our normal practice to take evidence on oath.

Mr Willetts insisted that he had told the truth. "I am sorry my integrity has been called into question, especially as throughout the committee hearing I told the truth and I stand by my evidence to the committee," he wrote in his resignation letter to John Major. Mr Major, who is reported to have tried to persuade Mr Willetts, a key element in the government's strategy, to change his mind, responded by suggesting that he might believe his minister rather than the powerful all party committee, chaired by his cabinet colleague, Tony Newton.



Mr Willetts outside his London home last night after proffering his resignation to John Major PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH

Hamilton and Tim Smith had received cash from Mohamed Al Fayed, the Harrods owner, for asking parliamentary questions in a campaign orchestrated by lobbyist Ian Greer. The memo by Mr Willetts was written in October 1994, on the day the story appeared. Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, then chairman of the now defunct Commons Members' Interests Committee, was starting an investigation into a complaint by Alex Carlisle, Liberal Democrat MP for Montgomery, against Mr Hamilton for accepting cash and shopping vouchers, and not declaring his stay at Mr Al Fayed's Ritz Hotel, Paris. The memo only came to light after the Guardian had subpoenaed documents from Richard Ryder, the former chief whip, during the libel action brought against the paper by Mr Hamilton and Mr Greer. The case collapsed.

Mr Willetts is said to have floated with the committee chairman, Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, the possibility of "exploiting the good Tory majority" on the committee to ensure the issue was dealt with as quickly as possible. During the hearing, both he and Sir Geoffrey unconvincedly tried to explain away the memo as not an attempt to influence the proceedings. But Mr Willetts's explanation was torn apart by Quentin Davies, MP for Stamford. Mr Davies last night said: "Truth and justice has been done."

Mr Major last night promoted Michael Bates, another junior whip to replace Mr Willetts as Paymaster General. Mr Bates, 35, MP for Langborough, was a Government whip.

'I am sorry my integrity has been called into question, especially as throughout the committee hearing I told the truth.' David Willetts, former Paymaster General

'We are very concerned that any Member should dissemble in his account to the committee and believe that this response by Mr Willetts has substantially aggravated the original offence.' Report of the Standards and Privileges Committee, December 11, 1996

Deserving not a shred of sympathy

Commentary

Hugo Young

DAVID Willetts is a luckless victim, but one who deserves not a shred of sympathy. His crime was to do what other people do, engage in the subterranean trade of political management. Unfortunately he was found out. But, being found out, he became the inescapable emblem of a period in politics when the voters are increasingly doubtful whether trade and integrity can coexist. His departure is a minimum necessity if the reputation of politics - I say nothing of the Government - is to be revived.

Some may catch here the stink of hypocrisy. If everyone in politics is, to some extent, a fixer, why should Mr Willetts's attempt at fixing be indicated as anything worse than the amateurish effort of a callow practitioner? Why dump on this clever fellow, a long-term asset to the cerebral side of politics, when many more unscrupulous operators burrow in the undergrowth? But that's an argument which concedes there are almost no limits to what would be proper for politicians, in their own little club, to get up to.

Mr Willetts might have done better, all the same, to try and use it. He could have said that while he was the natural confidant of a committee chairman who faces the uncomfortable prospect of investigating an affair so explosive as the conduct of Neil Hamilton. The managerial question, would be enough to get the accused to do the proper thing. At least some senior MPs, we learn, can collaborate in the assertion of standards that go beyond the turn to page 2, column 3



Willie Rushton, satirist, radio wit and cartoonist, dies at 59

Allison Daniels

A CAREER that spanned an array of artistic disciplines turned Willie Rushton, who died yesterday at 59, into a giant of comedy and satire. His death in London's Cromwell Hospital followed a brief illness and a heart operation.

BBC Radio 4 gameshow, I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue. Mr Rushton began his career as a satirical cartoonist and co-founded Private Eye in 1961 with friends Paul Foot, Richard Ingrams and Christopher Booker. He continued to contribute to the magazine until last week and was described by the magazine's editor, Ian Hislop, as a brilliant man whose caricatures of Harold Wilson and Edward Heath had become

enduring images of their time. "Willie was immensely jolly, very robust and inventive. His death is a big blow." During the 1960s he took to the stage before becoming a household name on the satirical BBC television revue series, That Was the Week That Was, hosted by Sir David Frost. Sir David said yesterday that as each year passed, Mr Rushton got wittier and funnier. "I can't imagine the Lord's Taverners

or British life without him." In 1976 he joined the panel of I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue and contributed to 27 series. He kept his hand in stage work, most recently with performances at the Edinburgh Festival and a tour of Britain with fellow comic Barry Cryer. Tim Brooke-Taylor, who became friends with Mr Rushton during an American tour of That Was the Week That Was and worked with him on I'm Sorry I Haven't a

Clue said he was one of life's few original talents. "He had a sort of prickly exterior but once you knew him you would discover what a kind man he was." James Moore, head of BBC Radio light entertainment described him as a "king of comedy". Mr Rushton is survived by his wife, actress Ariana Dorgon who he married in 1968, and their son Toby. Obituary, page 10



Rushton: 'immensely jolly'

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Inside Two highly educated young Palestinians were convicted at the Old Bailey of plotting the 1994 bomb attack on the Israeli embassy.

World News Jung Chee-hwa, who offers for Confucian values and Liverpool FC, was awarded a title Hong Kong when Chinese rule returns after 155 years.

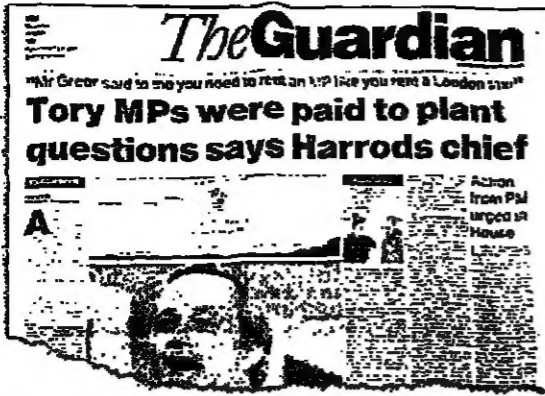
Finance Roger Levitt, ex-sales superstar, is being prosecuted for allegedly breaking a lengthy ban on his acting as a company director.

Sport Steve Chettle, 50, has been named as the new boss at Brighton. 11 points remain in division three.

Comment and Letters 8 Obituaries 10 G2 Crossword 15 Weather 16 Radio and TV 16



The road to resignation



Oct 20, 1994 Guardian publishes allegations that Neil Hamilton, a junior trade minister, and Tim Smith, a junior NI minister took up to £2,000 each to ask Commons questions. Smith admits taking undeclared payments and resigns. Hamilton and lobbyist Ian Greer issue writs for libel. David Willetts, then a Tory whip, writes controversial memo.



Oct 25, 1994 Hamilton resigns and Lord Nolan's Committee on Standards in Public Life set up.



June 8, 1995 The Committee on Members' Interests inquiry into Hamilton's stay at the Ritz concludes he was "imprudent" not to have registered his stay but take no further action.



Sept 30, 1996 Hamilton and Greer drop their libel action against the Guardian the day before the court case is due to begin and agree to pay contribution to newspaper costs.



Oct 5, 1996 Willetts, now Paymaster General, revealed as author of memo to newly created Standards and Privileges Committee, set up by Lord Nolan's reforms, which prompts allegations of a government cover-up.



Dec 11, 1996 After 25 hours of deliberations the Committee concludes Willetts guilty of "dissembling" and he resigns.

How Minister's dissembling turned

THE REPORT/ Ex-Paymaster General's evidence 'seriously aggravated original offence'

Owen Bowcott

THE former Paymaster General, David Willetts, "dissembled" under questioning to the extent that much of his evidence could not be regarded as accurate, the Committee on Standards and Privileges concluded yesterday.

As a junior whip, the Conservative MP for Havant attempted to influence the Commons investigation into cash-for-questions allegations, the committee added. He should not have discussed the affair in October 1994 with the members' interests committee chairman, Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith.

terday, the Standards and Privileges Committee unanimously criticised both Mr Willetts and Sir Geoffrey. But the harshest words were reserved for the MP who, until his resignation yesterday, was considered a high flyer. Mr Willetts's evidence to the committee had, the MPs said, "substantially aggravated the original offence".

Mr Willetts's memorandum of October 1994 to the whips office and claims that there had been a Conservative attempt to stifle the Commons

'His conversation went beyond what should properly have taken place'

committee investigation was charged with reviewing the relationship between Tory MP Neil Hamilton and Westminster lobbyist Ian Greer.

Later that night Mr Willetts, then a junior whip, recorded his comments on their exchange in the whips office notebook. Intelligence distilled from the notebooks provides an important guide to ministers on day-to-day opinion in the party.

The day after that inquiry was established, Mr Willetts met its chairman Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith and discussed the issue which was the main topic of conversation in the Commons that day, October 20 1994.

ests. They claimed it had cleared Neil Hamilton but actually this was only on a complaint about remarks of his; not on the new allegations. "He [Sir Geoffrey] is now expecting to receive a formal complaint about Mr Hamilton receiving money etc. He could (1) argue subjudice and get committee to set it aside, or (2) investigate it as quickly as possible, exploiting good Tory majority at present. We were inclined to go for (1) but he wants our advice."

what was said. It had been a casual conversation rather than a discussion. But he insisted that he had not been seeking advice on how to investigate the Hamilton affair. "Without being at all conceited about it or pompous, you do not need advice on a point like this," told the Standards and Privileges Committee. "I was quite clear in my own mind, with my experience, where duty lay."

On the question of what exactly had been said, he commented: "words like 'exploiting a good Tory majority' are not in my vocabulary". The committee did not usually

Intellectual not forgiven for flexible principles

THE EX-MINISTER/ Friends are hard to find, writes Ewen MacAskill

DAVID Willetts, until yesterday the Paymaster General, has a reputation - his Conservative Party as an intellectual. But, as a colleague said yesterday, it is not hard to gain a reputation as an intellectual in the Tory party.

He was a loner. Tory Central Office, when asked yesterday for a list of Mr Willetts's friends, responded with enthusiasm and then could not think of any. And yet, in spite of his permanent air of seriousness, those who know him say he is good company.



Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith and the memorandum recording David Willetts's conversation with him

Said No 10 had got in a muddle about Committee on Members' Interests. They claimed it had cleared Neil Hamilton but actually this was only on a complaint about his remarks of his; not on the new allegations. He is now expecting to receive a formal complaint about Hamilton receiving money etc. He could: (i) argue now subjudice and get Committee to set it aside or (ii) investigate it as quickly as possible, exploiting good Tory majority at present. We were inclined to go for (i) but he wants our advice. Dhw 20/10/94

Clear victory for self-regulation

REFORMS/A crucial test passed, reports David Hencke

PARLIAMENT yesterday passed its first crucial test in putting its house in order since accepting the broad thrust of the reforms proposed by Lord Nolan, the life peer appointed by John Major to raise standards in public life.

The composition of the committee is key to the success of the process. It is chaired by Tony Newton, a Cabinet minister and Leader of the House. Its members include prominent Tory loyalists like Dame Jill Knight, a member of the 1922 committee, former ministers Sir Archie Hamilton and Sir Quentin Davies, the MP for Stamford, and independent minded members such as Iain Duncan Smith, MP for Chingford. On the Labour side it includes Ann Taylor, the shadow leader of the house, strong minded individualists such as Dale Campbell Savours, MP for Worthington, and old hands like Ernie Ross, MP for Dundee, West.

This harsh judgment reflects the feeling of many in the party. His writing, Modern Conservatism and attack on what he saw as Tony Blair's gurus were interesting rather than influential, not enough to forgive the unseemly speed with which he had switched sides. In spite of this, he would have continued to rise in the party. He was undone by what must have seemed a small, almost routine, incident - his conversation on October 20 1994 with the Tory chairman of the Commons committee on members' interests, Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, about the Neil Hamilton affair. Even then he could have got away with it. His mistake was writing it down.

The episode also does a little to support Mr Major's constant claim that our politics are, in fact, clear. Of all that's often said about his time in office, the notion that he has presided over a period of unequalled political equanimity is the one he most resents. He bitterly deplored every insinuation about our system that grew out of the Scott inquiry into arms for Iraq. No where in the world is straighter, he insists. And if one counts the number of politicians caught with their hands in the public till, that's

Deserving not a shred of sympathy

continued from page 1 partisan. The public will be glad to hear it. The episode also does a little to support Mr Major's constant claim that our politics are, in fact, clear. Of all that's often said about his time in office, the notion that he has presided over a period of unequalled political equanimity is the one he most resents.

Hamilton still proposes to offer himself for election in the Conservative interest, and may well be assisted in doing so by the slyly glib processes of the same committee that yesterday congratulated itself for putting the squeeze on Mr Willetts.

These are shocking deformities of the body politic, to contrast with the partial satisfaction Mr Willetts has been obliged to give it. Behind them stands the unresolved scandal of party funding. Mr Major and every minister without exception continue to cling to the indefensible line that giving money to their party, however vast the sum or distant

the residence, should be a private matter. It is one matter on which there's not a single sceptic to be found. Late though he was to disprove his integrity, Mr Willetts has a basis from which to retrieve it, and with it his career, which he will probably do. In the grand calamity that is about to devastate his party, the brief misjudgment of the young MP with an iron-clad majority in Havant will count for little. But until the party sees the point about its funds, the message in matchless integrity Mr Heseltine drew from the Willetts affair yesterday will deserve all the cynicism it gets.



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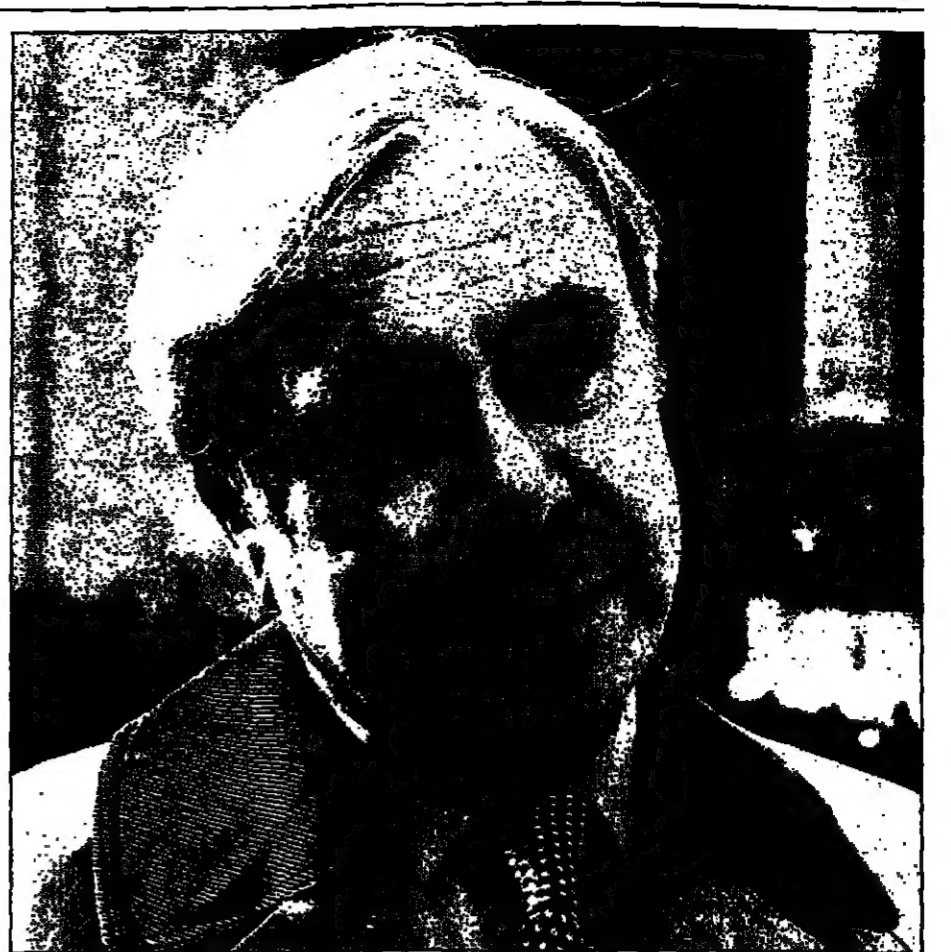
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The privileges committee's inquiry was into alleged pressure put on the members' interests committee reviewing the relationship between Tory MP Neil Hamilton, left, and Westminster lobbyist Ian Greer

# a problem into a resignation crisis

vote on party lines, he insisted. Sir Geoffrey thought the interpretation put upon their meeting by the former junior whip was "astonishing". Mr Willetts's account was given to the committee initially through a written memorandum, then during two public televised sessions of intensive cross-examination. He recalled meeting Sir Geoffrey by chance late in the afternoon. It was a brief exchange.

discussion, Mr Willetts conceded, that was because he was freshly appointed to the Whips' office and more accustomed to drafting formal policy documents. As for the phrase "exploiting a good Tory majority", he denied this was a reference to "using a Tory majority to secure a particular outcome to an enquiry". "I did not attempt in any manner, nor at any time, to pressurise the committee... I do not believe anything improper was said or done during the conversation or thereafter."

tin Davies, the Conservative MP for Stamford and Spalding. Mr Willetts admitted that in his first week as a whip he may have wished to impress colleagues by dramatising the conversation. Asked to explain the words "he wants our advice", Mr Willetts said he meant that "he is in want of advice, he needs advice". Commenting on the evidence, the Standards and Privileges Committee said Sir Geoffrey claimed not to recall the conversation in detail yet was definite in his denial that he had referred to "exploiting a good Tory majority".

As to Mr Willetts's role, the committee's report observes: "The story which appeared in the Guardian on October 22 1994 was not only damaging to Mr Hamilton, it was also potentially damaging to the Government and therefore a matter of concern to the government whips." As a new whip, Mr Willetts had evidently "felt it necessary to apply his experience as a policy adviser to present options

The brief but robust conclusions reached by the Standards and Privileges Committee were contained in the final paragraphs of their report. Mr Willetts's original note in the whips' book was a "broadly accurate account of the conversation", the MPs stated. "There was no evidence that he had actively sought out Sir Geoffrey Johnson with the intention of influencing his conduct of the members' interests committee. But, as the note suggested, Mr Willetts took the opportunity to do so" during the course of their exchange.

Sir Geoffrey, on the other hand, should not have participated in such a discussion. It "exceeded the bounds of propriety". Mr Willetts ought not to have discussed the work of the members' interests committee with its chairman. "We regard the conversation as having gone beyond what should properly have taken place." The system of self-regulation which Parliament has established cannot function if members are not frank and open about mistakes that they may have made in the past. The report notes, before reaching its damning final conclusions.

"We cannot accept much of the memorandum submitted to the committee by Mr Willetts, nor much of his oral evidence, as accurate. We are very concerned that any member should disseminate his account to the committee and believe this response by Mr Willetts has substantially aggravated the original offence." Any future investigation of matters of privilege or of complaints about conduct, the report warns, should take evidence in normal practice under oath.

## 'We cannot accept much of the memorandum submitted by Mr Willetts'

# Tea and sympathy for 'a nice man'

THE CONSTITUENCY/ News spoils party, writes Luke Harding

THERE was an air of impending doom yesterday afternoon as the ladies of Havant Conservative Association gathered for their annual Christmas tea. When the news came through shortly after 3.50pm, as the winners of the tombola went up to collect prizes of home-made chutney and knitted Santan dolls, the gentle chinking of teacups and saucers suddenly stopped. Nobody had expected that David Willetts would resign - but resign he had. Somehow the cherry cake didn't quite taste the same after that. "We have this tea party every year. We shall remember this one," said Doris Pine, president of the Havant ladies committee, minutes after the bombshell had been dropped. "I'm absolutely shocked. I am very disgusted by the whole thing. I think David has been treated in the most dreadful way."

"Two brains and no common sense," he said. "I think he was a bit naive. It was his first couple of weeks in the whips' office and he had only just taken over his duties," she said. Mr Willetts has represented the affluent Hampshire constituency since 1992, when he enjoyed a 17,000-strong majority over the Liberal Democrats. While some townsfolk say he has a high local profile (he does his shopping at Waitrose on Saturdays) others complain that he spends too little time on constituency affairs and puts his career first. Conservative party stalwarts in Havant had watched the drama of Mr Willetts's role in the cash for questions affair with interest but had not expected the brutal denunciation that came yesterday. Ted Gale, the Havant party chairman, spoke to the MP yesterday morning and found him "upbeat". Bob McCartney, a retired lorry driver who voted Tory at the last election, said he would not do so again. "If he had been up to naughtiness he should chuck it all in - not just as a minister but also as an MP," he said. Others were equally disillusioned. John Fanketh, a retired lecturer, said politicians got wrapped up in a "fantasy world" of their own which bore no relation to local issues. But he



A sombre mood at the Tories' Christmas tea party in Havant, Mr Willetts's constituency

be impressed with the Paymaster General's decision to fall on his sword. Bob McCartney, a retired lorry driver who voted Tory at the last election, said he would not do so again. "If he had been up to naughtiness he should chuck it all in - not just as a minister but also as an MP," he said. Others were equally disillusioned. John Fanketh, a retired lecturer, said politicians got wrapped up in a "fantasy world" of their own which bore no relation to local issues. But he

added wryly: "I'm fed up with Westminster politics, but I put the Conservatives back into power each time." Lynne Armstrong, Labour's prospective parliamentary candidate for Havant, claimed there had been a 27 per cent swing from the Conservatives to Labour in the seat since 1992. She called on Mr Willetts to step down as an MP and fight a by-election. "He was involved in a cover-up and then he tried to cover up his cover-up," she said.

Meanwhile, the members of Havant Conservative Association left their Georgian townhouse HQ in low spirits and trooped into the December cold. And what of Quentin Davies, the Tory MP whose savage interrogation of Mr Willetts during the Commons Standards and Privileges committee hearings probably prompted his demise? "With friends like that, who needs enemies?" commented Mrs Carpenter, before trudging off into the night.

# Man of honour bucks trend for holding on

RESIGNATIONS/ Alan Travis on a rare example of going with grace

DAVID WILLETTS is a man of honour, they say, because he decided to resign as soon as the jury foreman had read out the verdict. That only seems unusual these days because so many ministers in John Major's government have been driven out of office days or even weeks after the verdict has been delivered. In Westminster folklore nobody has really resigned "on principle" since the "good old days" of 1982 when Lord Carrington and his Foreign Office team of Humphrey Atkins and Richard Luce resigned en masse over the Falklands. David Mellor's Cabinet resignation in September 1992 was the first of the Major government and the Prime Minister's desire to

protect his close and personal friend set the tone for the next three years. Northern Ireland minister Michael Mates resigned in June 1993. It was the inscription: "Don't let the buggers get you down" as much as the gift of the inscribed watch to Asil Nadir that did for him. Norman Lamont didn't step down as Chancellor until six months after the pound had been bounced out of the Exchange Rate Mechanism by the speculators. Cecil Parkinson was perhaps the greatest example of the successful "come back kid." He was said to be Thatcher's chosen successor until his career was wrecked by his affair with Sarah Keays becoming public. The real trouble for John Major came in January 1994

when there were four scandals and three resignations within the month after his Back to Basics speech. Environment minister Tim Yeo was named as the father of a child born to a Hackney Conservative councillor, Julia Stant. Four days later junior transport minister Lord Caitness resigned after his wife committed suicide and her parents alleged she had been distressed by his relationship with another woman. Mr Major let it be known that in future he would no longer protect those who found their private lives all over the Sunday papers. The culture swiftly changed to a government where nobody appeared to resign. William Waldegrave refused to go after the Scott inquiry despite telling MPs it was defensible to mislead the Commons. On this yardstick David Willetts will be quickly forgiven.

## The letters

In his resignation letter, David Willetts said: "I have read the report of the Committee of Standards and Privileges which has been published this afternoon. I am sorry my integrity has been called into question, especially as throughout the committee hearing I told the truth and I stand by my evidence to the committee. However, in the light of their report, I believe the only honourable course is to resign. "I look forward to support-

ing the Government from the backbenches." John Major replied: "Thank you for your letter today following the report of the Committee on Standards and Privileges. "I very much regret your resignation as Paymaster General, but I accept your reasons. It is consistent with the dignified way that you have conducted yourself that you should feel it right to stand down from the Govern-

ment in the light of the committee's report. "I am most grateful for all your hard work through the years, both during your time as a minister and before. You had, in particular, been playing a key role as Paymaster General in helping to co-ordinate the planning and presentation of government policy. "I am grateful for your continued support and I look forward to working with you to bring about another victory at the general election."

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The blast at the Israeli embassy in 1994, caused by a bomb in an Audi driven by an untraced smart middle-aged woman who left carrying a Harrods bag

# Dead fan's brother gets £200,000

**Martin Wainwright and Claire Dyer**

THE controversial pattern of damages payments following the Hillsborough disaster took another unexpected turn yesterday when a grief-stricken Liverpool fan was awarded £201,729 for post-traumatic stress disorder following the death of his half-brother in the tragedy.

John McCarthy, aged 35, became only the second relative of any of the 96 victims to receive a large payment, compared with 18 awards to South Yorkshire police officers affected by stress and ill-health after the catastrophic 1989 FA Cup semi-final.

The award was granted against the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire at the High Court in London, but Mr Justice Sachs stressed that it should not be regarded as setting a precedent. His ruling was based on the "instant facts of this case" and the particular evidence of strong emotional ties between Mr McCarthy and his half-brother, Ian Glover, aged 20, who was crushed to death.

The judge described how Mr McCarthy had collapsed over Ian's body after hurrying from a different terrace at the Sheffield Wednesday ground. He had attempted suicide on Ian's 21st birthday which he had been planning before the Liverpool-Nottingham Forest match as a big family celebration.

The court also heard that Mr McCarthy had separated from his wife and their two children because of the "catastrophic" change in his personality after Hillsborough. His wife had spoken of the exceptional bond between the two men. Their mother, Theresa Glover, had said: "They were as close as any brothers could be."

Ian was featured in last week's Granada TV documentary on the disaster, along with his natural brother, Joe, who was with him on the Leppings Lane stand but who survived. The judge said he was satisfied that John was part of a close-knit family.

His father had died before he was born but he had at ways looked on his mother's second husband as a natural and much-loved successor. The judge said the stress meant that Mr McCarthy would never return to his job as a machine operator, or any other full-time work.

"My decision creates no precedent. I decide it on the facts of the instant case and I am satisfied that on the balance of probabilities this plaintiff passes the tests required of him entitling him to be compensated for his hurt and consequential injury to his health."

Mr McCarthy was awarded his costs and the judge refused South Yorkshire police a stay on the damages pending appeal, which lawyers said the Chief Constable was considering.

Mrs Glover, who lives in Liverpool, said after the hearing "I'm happy and I'm sad. It is very emotional for us even after all these years. I don't think they should have revealed the amount of money John has received, because they didn't do that for the police officers."

"We just wanted the truth, and after what John has suffered for 7½ years, he deserves what he's got."

The ruling will not open the way to further claims by families of the victims as it does not set a precedent.

It follows guidelines laid down by the House of Lords, which make it clear only relatives who were "close in time and space" — in other words, at the ground — and were "bound by close ties of love and affection" are entitled to compensation for post-traumatic stress disorder.

Other relatives were turned down because they were not at the ground or were not in a close enough relationship to the victim.

Police who have been awarded compensation, to the families' anger, were eligible because they fell into a separate category — rescuers — who, the Law Lords held, were owed a duty of care by their employers and were therefore entitled to claim.

One other relative is believed to have successfully claimed compensation — a father who accompanied his son to the ground and stayed on the coach intending to watch the match on TV.

# Embassy bomb: two guilty

## Duncan Campbell and Richard Norton-Taylor on trial verdict for Palestinians who plotted attacks on Jewish targets in London

TWO young, middle-class Palestinians were yesterday convicted of plotting the bomb that blasted the Israeli embassy in July 1994. A third defendant was cleared.

Samar Alami, aged 31, and Jawad Botmeh, aged 28, were convicted of conspiring to cause explosions by an 11-1 majority after the jury at the Old Bailey had deliberated for 6½ hours. Mahmoud Abu-Wardeh, aged 26, was acquitted of all charges. A fourth defendant, Nadia Zakra, aged 68, had been cleared earlier in the nine week trial. Mr Justice Garland will pass sentence on Monday after hearing mitigation evidence.

Relatives and friends of the convicted pair, who were remanded in custody, went in the public gallery. The three accused embraced after the verdicts, and Mr Abu-Wardeh mouthed his thanks to the jury. The police said that they will continue the hunt for the woman who placed the bomb. It was just before noon on 20 July 1994 that a silver Audi, registration D201 BGU, driven by a smartly-dressed middle-aged woman, entered Palace Green, the London



Books and equipment found with guilty pair's fingerprints

photographic detail a BMW driven by one of the drivers.

The anti-terrorist branch set about tracing all the owners of that model in England. The owner of the 1994 was Botmeh.

He was put under surveillance, and this established his links with Alami. At the home of Alami's absent uncle in Kensington, hidden in a trapdoor, was a .38 revolver, ammunition, a book on explosives engineering, and guides to avoiding surveillance.

The next breakthrough for the police came when the manager of Nationwide storage units in west London opened one unit on which the rental had not been paid. Inside were two self-loading pistols, bomb-making equipment, a book on guerrilla warfare by Che Guevara, and the Grim Reaper by an ex-SAS man. He called the anti-

terrorist branch. Fingerprints linked the pair to the cache.

Botmeh was seen by police as the man who was purchasing the cars, using false but similar names. His friend and business associate, Abu-Wardeh, who has British passport, was also followed. He was acquitted on all counts yesterday.

The arrests began on 17 January 1995; seven people were eventually held, of whom four stood trial. The police have always indicated that others who have not been traced were involved and have said that they will continue the search for them.

The Crown case was that the pair shared the beliefs of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, disapproved of the assessment policies of Yasser Arafat, and were determined to take a more militant stance. In court, the accused denied this, saying that a bomb outside the Israeli embassy would be counter-productive.

The defence was mounted by three of the most experienced bomb trial QCs: Michael Mansfield for Botmeh and Alami, Rock Tansey for Abu-Wardeh, and Helena Kennedy for Zakra. Mr Mansfield presented the jury with a history of the Middle East from the Palestinian perspective, in which Israeli forces and Jewish settlers waged a terrorist war and the Israeli government had "absolutely no moral or legal right, no right at all doing what they are doing".

Botmeh and Alami accepted their connections to the explosives but argued they had not planned to cause explosions in Britain, the offence with which they were charged. They claimed that they had been researching explosives with a view to assisting the Palestinian cause in the occupied territories.

The bombs led to allegations of lack of co-operation between police and SIS and the intervention of the Israeli secret service, Mossad.

However, Detective Superintendent Bill Emerson, the senior officer in the case, insisted in court it was a straightforward police investigation. He added: "There were no intelligence secrets about this job... There was an intelligence vacuum".

The arrests shocked the Palestinian community in London: the families involved were all well known, and many were involved in Palestinian charitable organisations.

A spokesman for the Israeli embassy said that there would be no comment on the case until sentences had been passed.

## Fiennes calls off Antarctic walk

THE attempt by the explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes to become the first man to walk solo across Antarctica has ended in failure, it emerged last night, writes Nick Varley.

The bid ended when his support team spotted smoke from two distress flares. Sir Ranulph, aged 53, fired the SOS signal after a recurrence of the kidney problems which ended a previous expedition to the North Pole.

The expedition's premature end came with Sir Ranulph and his sledge containing supplies almost a quarter of the way into the 110-day trek.

He was slightly behind the Norwegian, Borge Oulund, aged 33, his main rival in a race with other international explorers to become the first to walk alone and unaided across the freezing landscape.

Sir Ranulph was drawn to staging the latest trek in the hope of raising £1 million for the breast cancer charity Breakthrough.

## Woman studying for second master's, man married to policeman's daughter

SAMAR Alami, aged 31, is half Palestinian and half Lebanese, and was born in Beirut; she holds a Lebanese passport. Her father worked for the Arab Bank in Beirut.

One of four sisters and two brothers, she came to London in 1984, took a master's degree in engineering at Imperial College and, at the time of her arrest, was studying for a second master's at City University. Her speciality is water resources management, which her family said she had hoped to put to practical effect in Gaza.

She was active on Palestinian women's issues, and a member of the Medical Aid to Palestine charity, Amnesty International, and the Friends of the Middle East. She also organised fund-raising events for Palestinian charities and was a voluntary translator for Arab hospital patients.

Around 70 people, mainly British, offered to stand bail for her; Lord Gilmour, the former Cabinet minister, a friend of the family, was one of her sureties. Her supporters in the Friends of Samar Alami group included MPs Harry Cohen, Tony Benn and Jeremy Corbyn, as well as Jewish and Arab activists.

Jawad Botmeh, aged 28, a friend of Alami, was born in Bethlehem and his family village is Batir, five miles from Jerusalem. He is Palestinian with a Jordanian passport.

He went to Leicester and Nottingham universities, where he was active in student politics, and has a master's degree in engineering. His father, who funded his education, is a bank manager on the West Bank; his mother works for the United Nations Works and Relief Agency.

He lives in Bloomsbury, central London, and is married to a woman from Leicester, the daughter of a police officer, although some of his friends were unaware of the fact; they have a child. Alami gave him financial assistance.

Botmeh never made any secret of his campaigning for an independent Palestine. In the witness box he spoke of the "degradation and repression" faced by Palestinians in Israel and said that Britain had given him a "sense of freedom".



Samar Alami and Jawad Botmeh, convicted yesterday

# Leah case nightclub link to triple drug killings

SECURITY at a nightclub at the centre of Leah Betts' death was organised by a man who was later a victim of murder, Norwich crown court was told yesterday.

The jury heard that the ecstasy table which caused two weeks after Leah's death last year was bought in the nightclub, called Raquel's, in Basildon, Essex.

Security at Raquel's was at the time organised by Anthony Tucker, 36, of Fobbing, Essex, one of three men found shot dead in a Range Rover at Rettendon, Essex, in December last year.

But the manager of Raquel's at the time Leah died said that he had no idea that Tucker had been involved in the Essex drugs scene. David Sims said he did not accept that Raquel's had a reputation for drug abuse. Under cross-examination he said he knew Tucker but did not know his reputation. He accepted that the club had a reputation for being rough and occasionally troublesome. "But at no time did I feel it had a reputation for drug abuse and that was never intimated to me by anyone."

He would have expected the club's head doorman, Bernie King, or the police to have told him if there was a drug problem.

He did not know that Bernie King was involved in distributing drugs at the club. Mr King had left his job about two weeks after Leah's death on November 11.

The jury has been told that Leah obtained ecstasy through a network of friends.

It is alleged that the drug was bought from an unknown source at Raquel's by Steven Packman, 18, of Laindon, Essex. It is then said to have been passed to Packman's friend, Stephen Smith, 19, of Basildon, Essex. He passed it to his girlfriend, Louise Yexley, 18, of Basildon, Essex.

She then passed it on to Leah's best friend, Sarah Cargill, 18, of Basildon, Essex, who handed it on to Leah.

Miss Cargill said that she and Leah had wanted ecstasy for Leah's 18th birthday party and had asked Miss Yexley if she could help them get some. Packman denies a charge of being concerned with supplying ecstasy to Leah Betts and Sarah Cargill.

Smith has admitted the allegation but has yet to be sentenced.

Miss Cargill and Miss Yexley have also admitted their involvement and have been formally cautioned by police. John Cooper, defending, said that there was a trial pending in relation to Tucker's murder in the club.

Patrick O'Mahoney — who is also known as Bernie King — said that it was common knowledge among doormen and management at Raquel's that drugs were being supplied in the club.

"We were aware... that ecstasy was being supplied in that club and by whom as well."

"I was aware, as well as the management were aware, and everyone else was aware, what particular person was supplying ecstasy in that club. I have got the guts to admit it even if the management haven't."

"There was no question" of him being involved in supplying the drug that killed the teenager. He had seen nothing of any transaction relating to the Leah Betts inquiry in the club. "There is no question of me being involved."

The hearing continues.

# BBC warns of warfare over digital TV

Andrew Cull  
Media Correspondent

GUERRILLA warfare could erupt between broadcasters because of the introduction of digital television, the BBC warned yesterday.

Viewers could face costly "hardware wars" if the Government's regulations are not tightened, Patricia Hodgson, the corporation's director of policy and planning, claimed.

The BBC fears Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB will gain an unfair stronghold over the new technology when up to 200 digital satellite channels are launched next autumn.

An 11th-hour appeal to change the regulations was made by the BBC yesterday following the Department of Trade and Industry's two-week consultation period.

The BBC claims BSkyB — expected to be first into the market with the set-top box needed to decode digital signals — will control access for other broadcasters and the important subscriber management systems used to collect pay-TV revenue. It fears the electronic programme guides which will navigate viewers through a multi-channel world will highlight BSkyB's programmes while relegating a menu of BBC services to obscurity. The Government, which is unlikely to make significant changes to the rules, plans to table the regulations in the Commons before Christmas.

It says they ensure fair and non-discriminatory access for all broadcasters. Don Cruickshank, director general of the watchdog Ofcom, has powers to intervene over anti-competitive behaviour.

The rules will come into effect after 21 sitting days, unless MPs force a debate and possibly a vote. Geoff Hoon, Labour's technology spokesman, said the party would seek to initiate a Commons debate on the regulations.

He was meeting Mr Cruickshank yesterday and hoped Ofcom would be firm in ensuring other broadcasters had access to BSkyB's set-top box technology.

Ms Hodgson said: "The regulations are complex and opaque. There is some risk of continuing guerrilla warfare between box manufacturers, broadcasters, and Ofcom as they try to make sense of them."

Set-top box operators should be required to provide necessary information to allow broadcasters to plan digital services in time to launch alongside BSkyB.

Operators should also be required to license their boxes to other broadcasters and manufacturers. That would ensure compatibility between satellite and terrestrial boxes.

The BBC wants to put its free-to-air services — BBC1, BBC2 in widescreen and 24-hour TV news — and its planned subscription channels on digital satellite, terrestrial and cable systems to ensure it remains a universally available broadcaster.

Digital terrestrial is expected to launch in mid-1998 offering up to 36 channels.

The ITV Association and Channel 4 were also critical of the DTI rules. They said they wanted broadcasters to be able to distribute their own smart cards and manage their own base of subscribers.

## Norris to lead Tories' poll bid in South-east

Rebecca Smithers

STEVEN Norris, the flamboyant former transport minister, is today expected to be appointed to spearhead the Tories' general election campaign in the South-east.

However, the 51-year-old member for Epping Forest in Essex — who is giving up his seat at the election — is certain to be targeted by Labour as the epitome of Tory sleaze because of his exotic love life and rapid acquisition of some £300,000 of transport-related jobs since leaving office.

A friend of Mr Norris said yesterday: "He is lining up jobs after the election, and he thinks it would be a good use of his time until then... and also a lot of fun."

The father of two, now separated from his wife, is famous for his love life involving five mistresses, and has also attracted controversy by accepting the £150,000-a-year chairmanship of the Road Haulage Association on the once he leaves Westminster.

Tory sources said yesterday that the party was aware that its standing in London was running behind its overall position in the country.

# Milosevic's flashback mouthpiece

'I am a retarded, juvenile, easily manipulated, pro-fascist'

Julian Borger reports on Belgrade's ham-fisted propaganda and the mockery on the streets

IT WAS another time-warp moment in Slobodan Milosevic's Serbia: a cavernous conference chamber in Belgrade dominated by an industrial-size piece of socialist realist art depicting muscular Yugoslav heroes defending a tattered red flag against an unseen foe.

— whose results were annulled almost everywhere the opposition won — had "gone through successfully". The daily 100,000-strong protests in the streets outside were merely a "distraction".

## Nato ignores Karadzic sighting

UNITED NATIONS police took no action to arrest him. A Nato spokesman, Major Brett Boudreau, said: "We received the report, I'm not aware of us doing anything in particular." — Reuters.

which was suddenly closed, due to "damage to a coaxial antenna cable" supposedly caused by heavy rain.

a pro-regime tabloid, Flash. For a week before its launch, television advertisements promised startling revelations about the funding of opposition protests by "cocaine cartels" and the infiltration of the Belgrade demonstrations by "disguised Muslim soldiers" sent by the Bosnian president, Alija Izetbegovic.

concentration camps — why foreigners are backing Hrc. The piece drags hints at the destabilisation of Serbia by outside forces, but by the wiser about the threat of concentration camps.



A striker uses his flag to protect himself from the rain as thousands of Spanish workers march through Madrid yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: SANTIAGO LYON

## Aznar faces the wrath of Spain's civil servants

Adela Gooch in Madrid. ONE-DAY strike by civil servants protesting at government plans to impose a pay freeze three Spain into chaos yesterday.

"You should be grateful you have a job." Mr Aznar said he was keen to negotiate with the unions but that the pay freeze was an "irreversible" part of his austerity budget, which is designed to lower Spain's deficit so that it can qualify for the single European currency.

Workers' Commissions and the General Union of Workers claim the pay freeze runs counter to an agreement with the previous Socialist government which guaranteed wages would keep pace with inflation.

## Wary Germans slow off the mark

Ian Traynor in Bonn. THE German government's propaganda campaign to persuade reluctant Germans to forgo the Deutschmark for the single European currency appears to be falling on deaf ears.

about the euro, according to the survey by the prestigious Allensbacher polling institute. Opinion polls show a 2-1 majority against the common currency.

particularly the French, however, are less than keen to bow to German demands for foolproof rigour and exclusive European central bank control of the single currency.

be worth only DM80,000 if Bonn bows to French-led demands to relax the stiff terms of the single currency.

## Moscow's softer stance takes Nato by surprise

John Palmer in Brussels. NATO governments claimed last night that they had achieved a "breakthrough" by securing Russia's tacit consent for the gradual expansion of the alliance into central Europe; in return, Moscow will be offered a privileged security partnership.

Defence chief to leave army. PRESIDENT Boris Yeltsin yesterday told the defence minister, Igor Rodionov, to leave the armed forces to become Russia's first civilian defence minister in more than 70 years.

Despite Mr Primakov's public reiteration of Russian opposition to enlargement, Nato governments seemed convinced last night that Moscow had now accepted that some expansion was irreversible.

News in brief. Alaska on volcano alert. Pavlov volcano, at the tip of the Alaskan peninsula, has begun throwing gritty ash 15,000ft or more into the atmosphere, prompting a red alert at the Alaskan Volcano Observatory.

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صكرا من الامل

Saudis feed US mood for Iran reprisal

Martin Walker in Washington

THE Clinton administration is considering sharply escalating its campaign against Iran, possibly with covert and military action, after it received "highly persuasive" evidence of Tehran's involvement in the bombings of US military facilities in Saudi Arabia...



Inmates at El Pavon prison in Guatemala City demonstrate for an amnesty which could form part of a peace accord to be signed between the government and leftwing rebels.

French threaten to veto UN candidate

Paris is accused of pique for refusing to endorse the Security Council's choice of successor to Boutros Boutros-Ghali

LANGIAGE wars and power rivalries were becoming entangled at the United Nations last night as France threatened to veto the candidacy of Kofi Annan, the Ghanaian who has now emerged as the frontrunner to become the next secretary-general...

whether the French think there is any tactical mileage in holding out... As the battle moves into its final stage, Mr Annan is starting to win semi-public plaudits from his backers. British officials have pointed out that he does speak French - having served with the UN in Geneva - and therefore meets Mr Chirac's language criterion...



Frontrunner: But France may block Kofi Annan

Watch the birdie and collect another point

Competitive bird-watching is all the rage in South Africa, reports Donald McNeil

Birding Big Day, having slept only 20 yards from their first target, the owl tree. By 8am, driving at breakneck speed, they have already visited a hilltop camouflaged by a mountain forest, grassy fields, a riverside cliff, a sand forest, a crocodile-infested swamp and the town of Hluhluwe...

Colony adopts China's man for the top job

Andrew Higgins reports from Hong Kong on the selection of Tung Chee-hwa as leader-in-waiting

Hong Kong's elected assembly this month... Mr Patten yesterday offered to co-operate with Mr Tung, but said: "We are both, of course, agreed that I am responsible for the administration of Hong Kong until June 30 next year and after that he is responsible."

Blow for Jewish lobby

Martin Walker in Washington

THE LEADING arm of the pro-Israel lobby in the United States has suffered a sharp legal setback, required by an appeal court ruling to disclose the sources of its funds and how the money is spent...



LEPROSY patients offer prayers for Mother Teresa at a home run by her Missionaries of Charity religious order in Niyagarh, outside Calcutta.

Bolger sells policies to stay in power

Giles Wilson in Wellington

THE FULL cost of the New Zealand National Party's deal to stay in power has become clear: a \$2.2 billion increase in public spending over the next three years and the sacrifice of many of its election platform policies...

Unicef calls for quick end to dangerous child labour

matchstick-making factory: "Dust from the chemical powders and strong vapours in both the storeroom and the boiler room were obvious... 250 children, mostly below 10, were working in a long hall filled in a slotted frame with sticks. Some were barely five years old."

Out of school

Region	Percentage of children not attending school
Developing world	11%
Developed world	3%
World	6%











VW and General Motors step up war of words

Lopez indicted for industrial spying

Former star faces five-year stretch

Ian Traynor in Bonn

THE charismatic former Volkswagen executive Jose Ignacio Lopez faces criminal trial in Germany for industrial spying, it emerged yesterday. The indictment by German prosecutors prompted VW, Europe's biggest car manufacturer, and its arch-rival, General Motors/Opel, to step up their war of words over personal treachery and betrayal of commercial secrets. State prosecutors in the German town of Darmstadt and Mr Lopez's lawyers confirmed that the controversial former VW purchasing director faced charges of betraying industrial secrets, which can carry a prison term of up to five years. Opel said prosecutors indicted former VW manager Jose Manuel Gutierrez and two current managers at VW's Spanish SEAT subsidiary, Jorge Alvarez and Rosario Plaza. The three were members of Mr Lopez's purchasing department, whom he called his co-warriors. The indictments follow a three-and-a-half year investigation into the GM and VW settlements that Mr Lopez and a team of lieutenants transferred thousands of papers and computer files to the German company when he was lured from GM to Volkswagen in 1993. The Darmstadt prosecutors are expected to announce the charges formally tomorrow. But Mr Lopez's lawyers, Jürgen Tasche and Eberhard Wable, said in a statement they would seek to have the charges dismissed as they would not stand up in court. The announcement plus the pressure on Volkswagen and its embattled chief, Ferdinand Piech, who could eventually face trial in America. Besides the criminal charges against Mr Lopez,



Going their separate ways... Former colleagues Jose Ignacio Lopez (left) and VW chairman Ferdinand Piech

Fast track

1941: Born in Amorebieta near Bilbao. 1980: Joins General Motors España. 1986-1993: Head of purchasing at GM's German subsidiary Opel, then for GM Europe, then worldwide head. November 1992: Meets Ferdinand Piech, VW chairman. March 1993: Signs contract with VW as head of purchasing, is persuaded to stay as head of GM North America, then resigns and flies to Germany to join VW with seven colleagues he calls his 'warriors'. April 1993: Opel starts legal action on grounds of industrial espionage after GM claims papers missing from Lopez's US office. July 1993: US prosecutors begin investigation. German prosecutors find boxes of GM papers in the offices of two other former Opel managers at VW. August 1996: Public prosecutors search homes of a dozen VW executives. March 1996: GM/Opel seeks damages against VW in US court for criminal conspiracy and breach of confidentiality. May 1996: VW issues defamation writ against GM/Opel. October 1996: German court rejects VW counterclaim against GM. November 1996: US court says VW can be prosecuted for racketeering. GM/Opel demands Lopez's secking plus apology and damages. Lopez resigns. December 1996: VW reapoints Lopez as a consultant; Piech refuses to apologise.

Warrior whose philosophy has come alive

IAN TRAYNOR looks at the key man in the Western world's motor industries

THE ascetic 56-year-old Basque eschews red meat and alcohol, revolutionises global industries, attracts fierce loyalty and unremitting hostility — and could now end up behind bars. Jose Ignacio Lopez de Arriortua, the iconoclastic car industry executive at the centre of the escalating battle be-

tween Volkswagen and General Motors, creates waves wherever he moves, leaving more than just fustian and jetsam in his wake. A self-styled "warrior" who operates at the head of a small devoted team of Spaniards he took with him from GM to VW in March 1983, he is widely regarded as the most radical player in the European and US car industries. Paradoxically, perhaps, the aura of disgrace now hovering around his controversial person has arisen at the moment of his greatest triumph. Last month Volkswagen opened a new £163 million bus and lorry plant in Brazil which has Lopez stamped all

over it. After years of propagating and refining a business philosophy that hives off production and assembly of vehicles to sub-contractors, halves production costs and reduces the flagship company to a brand name, quality controller and sales outfit, Mr Lopez is seeing his philosophy come to life in the Brazilian plant. At the VW factory in Resende, sub-contractors and suppliers provide not only the vehicle components but entire "sub-assemblies", and they also put the vehicles together. Component prices are squeezed, VW's production role is minimised, and the

result, the Lopez clan entourage, is high-productivity, low-cost, earnings-rich output: the dream of every global manufacturer fulfilled. He is handsomely rewarded for his efforts. Until his sackings two weeks ago, his remuneration was reckoned at \$3.5 million a year. But it is the key elements of his strategy — delegation of production to sub-contractors, cost-cutting pressure on components suppliers and the bold new plant — that are at the centre of the industrial spying charges. When Mr Lopez fled to VW from GM in March 83 after a brief period of will-he-won't-he-jump drama, the tens of

thousands of papers he is alleged to have taken with him before shredding are said to have focused on GM's blueprint (Plateau 6) for a revolutionary plant producing a small car in his native Basque country and on GM's components-pricing strategy. Mr Lopez's lawyers yesterday effectively admitted that some of the papers related to a GM plant plan, but insisted it was a "coarse, preliminary study" containing no trade secrets, was of little use to anyone and was not passed to other VW executives. It could yet be years before the courts decide whether "the warrior" waged one battle too many.

News in brief

Hoechst move fuels talk

GERMAN chemical company Hoechst yesterday spent £718 billion (\$2.1 billion) buying out the 43 per cent minority shareholding in the French pharmaceutical company Roussel Uclaf, in a move which fuelled speculation that it is preparing to split its chemical and pharmaceutical operations along similar lines as ICI and Zeneca. Hoechst said the buyout will allow it to operate an integrated drugs operation as a separate legal entity, known as Hoechst Marion Roussel after the 1985 acquisition of US group Marion Merrell Dow. Hoechst also paid \$34 million for the organic pigment business of the UK company Cookson. — Roger Cove

French lift for Wales

ALMOST 300 new jobs will be created in a work-starved Welsh town following a French motor component manufacturer's decision to establish a factory to produce car seats. The £12 million investment at Tredreger by the Bertrand Faure Group will provide a significant boost to an area ravaged by the run down of the coal and steel industries. Male unemployment in the region stands at 18 per cent. Faure currently supplies seats for Honda and Rover models from a plant in Oxfordshire. New business has meant bringing in additional seat frame capacity. Meanwhile, Benteler, a German car parts firm, is investing £14 million in a new plant at Corby, Northants, creating 120 jobs. — Geoffrey Gibbs

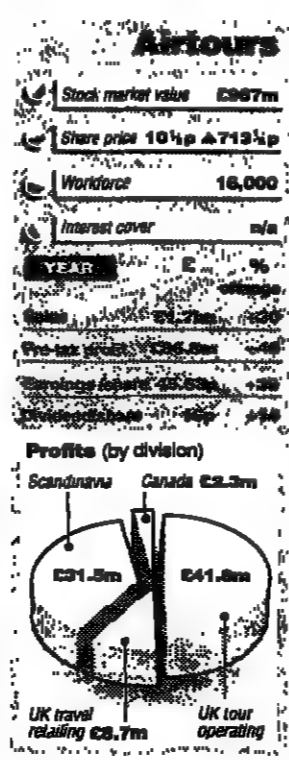
EU rules stir waters

ENFORCING stricter EU directives on the quality of bathing and drinking water could add £20 to the average annual household water bill, the National Customer Council of industry watchdog Ofwat (ONC) warned yesterday as the European parliament debated proposed revisions to directives. The revisions would cut the amount of lead allowed in drinking water, requiring a £2 billion programme to replace all water companies' lead pipes in England and Wales and a further £5 billion to replace lead pipes in domestic properties. ONC said changes to the bathing water directive to increase monitoring for the presence of bacteria from human and animal faeces would cost another £4.2 billion. — Celia Weston

Early bird gathers the profits

OUTLOOK/ Tour operator cuts out cheapies and wins benefits. Ian King reports

BRITAIN'S holiday industry has taken a fair buffeting over the last 18 months, with vicious competition in 1995 and a monopolies inquiry this year. However, Airtours — Britain's second biggest tour operator — looks to have negotiated its way through the storm. David Crossland, the group's chairman and chief executive, was able to announce a 46 per cent surge in full-year pre-tax profits yesterday, to \$28.8 million, and pledged that more was to come. The profits boost has come chiefly from the dramatic cuts that Airtours and its rivals made last winter in the number of holidays available, and the price increases pushed through at the same time. According to Mr Crossland, the days of buying a fortnight's package holiday in Majorca for £29 at the last minute are gone forever, and the message now is "book early to avoid disappointment". Airtours customers certainly seem to have got the message. In August the group



astonished the industry by publishing its brochures for summer 1997, a full year in advance, and bookings are currently ahead by 57 per cent. Significantly, the feel-good factor means the pricier holidays have been selling best, giving Airtours better profit margins.

Despite the fall in volumes the group's travel agency business, Going Places, managed to hoist profits by nearly a quarter, helped by the introduction of a foreign currency service to almost every branch. But it is Scandinavia, where Airtours has expanded rapidly through acquisition over the last five years to grab a 50 per cent market share, that catches the eye. The latest acquisition, Simon Spies — Denmark's equivalent of Thomas Cook, bought by Airtours for \$50 million in February — has proved successful and Scandinavian is likely to prove a model for expansion elsewhere. Mr Crossland makes no secret of the fact that he would like to repeat the trick in Germany, although, with the peculiar network of cross-shareholdings that exists among tour operators in that country, getting an initial foothold could prove awkward. However, Airtours is not short of financial firepower, and the cash pile of £405 million, can easily splash out up to £250 million on acquisitions, assuming a similar amount is written off in goodwill. Mr Crossland is also interested in buying another cruise operation, perhaps in the Mediterranean or the Caribbean, and in extending the group's operations in Canada and the US. Apart from what it intends to do with its cash pile, the

Foreign Office targets sad TV addicts in charm offensive

Dan Atkinson IN A daring rescue mission that will stand in the finest traditions of British endeavour, our country yesterday stood ready, willing and able to assist the 750 million saddest and loneliest people in the world. These are individuals, from Fiji to Florida, who will watch anything on television. The Foreign Office yesterday launched a series of programmes promoting British industry, featuring 50 companies who "will be receiving television exposure in around 100 countries". Before humanity's inescapable and social outcasts know what's hit them, they'll wonder how they ever managed without 30 minutes on the BOG Group, GKN and Lasso. The 13 programmes are even now being loaded into planes for distribution to em-

basises around the globe. The Foreign Office is hoping for transmission on local TV, and is planning also to invite selected guests for special screenings. Jeremy Hanley, Foreign Office minister, launched in Good Company with a confident claim that the sight of UK Ltd in action on the small screen would "open up new markets". The trouble is that even a series of non-investigative as in Good Company raises awkward questions. Beefy industrial outfits are clearly the subjects of choice for the Foreign Office, but we soon run out of Glaxos and British Steels and are reduced to such manufacturing plants as the British Horseracing Board, accountants KPMG and Freshfields, the City solicitors. After that lot, it's a relief to encounter GEC Alsthom, representing the very best of British power engineering. Pity it's half French.

When 'the deputy chairman is tied up' can mean just that

Underside Dan Atkinson

MEDIA colleagues were over-keen in accepting Safeway's line on the sacking of deputy-chairman David Webster at last month's interim results presentation. The "domestic reasons" cited were interpreted by in-the-know analysts as meaning that DW was recovering from a savage assault by masked bandits, in which he and his wife had been handcuffed and robbed. Safeway insisted: "[We] don't know where these stories come from." Try Hemel Hempstead CID, which confirmed that such a raid had taken place, adding that the Websters (sorry,



anonymous victims) were shaken but unhurt. ELSEWHERE on the beat, no sign yet of that Bud-tough Mole being dragged into a Black Maria. Come

November 26, you recall, Treasury security types hunted high and low for the traitor who had passed the Budget to Cap'n Bob's old bulletin board, the Mirror. In went the T-men and came up with, er... nothing. No problem, because everyone else wanted to play, including MI "gig job" 5. A fortnight on, and the Great George Street line is that Molehunting is now a police concern. Wise, given the zero chance of a result. SIR John Harvey-Jones isn't the only VIP connected with former MTM chemicals chief Richard Lines — awaiting sentence after conviction of fraudulently inflating MTM's worth — to have been a touch embarrassed by the verdict. At least The

Troubleshooter stood by his old ICI buddy as a character witness; no such steadfastness in evidence from the Tory Party, once so cuddly with Lines. Mrs T dropped in on MTM HQ and then party chairman Lord Tebbit gave Lines the CBI Business Enterprise award at the Savoy in 1986. Lines, an enthusiastic Tory, put local MP Richard Holt on the payroll as a non-exec, unsurprising as his firm got such good service from the Government: £3.5 million in grants was promised. SAY what you like about Denis Thatcher, he don't dissemble. No sir. Estate agents On The House publish a newsletter feature from Michael Desmond, 1/c Barratt's sales team in 1983, giving Airtours better profit margins. the Thatchers bought

their Dulwich Gate property. "We discussed all sorts of things, including having Indians as neighbours... 'I'd never live next door to an Indian, can't stand the smell of their food,' he told me." Don't ever change. FINALLY, MTM brings us back to the law, and hats off to the North Yorkshire force. The group's plants were on Teesside, but a quirk of geography placed its Hutton Rudby HQ five miles inside Yorkshire; half-yearly time for a constabulary of 13,000 men scattered across Heartbeat country, a force whose eight-strong fraud squad was now grappling with a big City scandal. The Serious Fraud Office praised the force for doing "a marvellous job". Quite right.

Advertisement for Amsterdam flights. Features a large '3' and text: 'Amsterdam flights a day! £35 each way. Never requires a Saturday night stay. When you are not spending other people's money, fly easyJet. Also Scotland, Nice & Barcelona. Call 0990 29 29 29 anytime. All fares subject to tax subject to availability.'

سكرا من الاجل

Racing

Bad jumpers to be turfed out

Jockey Club tighten standards after death of Richard Davis. Chris Hawkins reports

RIDDING racing of bad horses and trainers are priorities in a list of recommendations by a Jockey Club committee...

Telf one of 14 poor horses facing the chop under new criteria

There are currently 38 National Hunt horses with a rating of 60 or below - jumping's bottom drawer...

But in future, to ensure higher standards among the training ranks, applicants will have to attend a 15-day course dealing with all aspects of the job...

This is a comprehensive Jockey Club review and the contentious subject of summer jumping was on the agenda...

Michael Caulfield, secretary of the Jockeys' Association, is in full agreement and commented: "Riding racers at speed over obstacles takes a lot of skill and a lot of dedication..."



All-weather proofed... Runners at Lingfield yesterday are well protected against flying sand from the synthetic surface

Maguire can make hurricane start to four-timer

WITH two winners at Leicester yesterday, Maguire in the opening novice event...

Jack Tanner (2.40) finished fourth to Urubande at the Cheltenham Festival last season and has already notched two wins this term...

After his difficult time with injuries, Maguire is again riding with a lot of skill and a lot of dedication...

Nonlinear for the Epsom Classic are just six fewer than at the same stage last year...

putting the course on target to achieving a £1 million Derby in 18 months' time...

Sandown runners and riders with form guide

Table with columns for race number, horse name, jockey, and other details for Sandown racing.

Results

Table showing race results for Hexham and Sandown Fakenham Taunton.

LEICESTER

Table showing race results for Leicester racing.

LINGFIELD

Table showing race results for Lingfield racing.

Fakenham

Table with columns for race number, horse name, jockey, and other details for Fakenham racing.

Taunton

Table with columns for race number, horse name, jockey, and other details for Taunton racing.

Blinked today for the first time: FAKENHAM 1250 County Star, 3.30 Dursban, SANDOWN 340 Sam Rocket, TAUNTON 1.45 Tibbs Inn, 2.20 Saxon Mead.

Weights for the Coral Welsh National are set to rise after defections left Lo Stregone, a doubtful runner, at the top of the handicap yesterday. The sponsors cut favourite Belmont King from 9.2 to 4.1 and trimmed Greenhill Tare Away to 12.1 from 16's after good support.

Table with columns for race number, horse name, jockey, and other details for Taunton racing.

LEICESTER

Table with columns for race number, horse name, jockey, and other details for Leicester racing.

LINGFIELD

Table with columns for race number, horse name, jockey, and other details for Lingfield racing.

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Table with columns for race number, horse name, jockey, and other details for Lingfield racing.

Soccer

Newcastle given new French test

Michael Walker

LIVERPOOL to Norway, and Newcastle back to France...

buoyant at the prospect of another trip to France so soon after the victory over Metz...



True Gritt... 'Success for me will be one position above where we are at the moment,' said the manager, left, at the press conference with Bellotti yesterday

Yesterday this man signed up for the worst job in football

Steve Gritt is the new manager of the League's basement club Brighton, reports Paul Weaver

STEVE GRITT, who was yesterday appointed manager of Brighton and Hove Albion, exhumed a cadaverous smile and said: 'Even Mission Impossible had a happy ending.'

Brighton, home of the saucy postcard and the dirty weekend, has recently provoked more suggestions in football locker-rooms...

On Monday they were docked two points by the FA because of a pitch invasion. They will be homeless next season, having sold their Goldstone Ground...

lookalike Jimmy Mella. If Charles Dickens wrote about football this would be the sort of club he would invent...

football person and I've been desperate to get back. I've applied for a number of jobs. I'm sure some people will think I'm mad but it's a challenge and I'm always up for that...

probation officer who saved Southampton from Premier League relegation last season, said Brighton had been 'unprofessional'...

Wilkinson keeps City waiting

Ian Ross

MANCHESTER CITY may have to wait until the new year to learn whether Howard Wilkinson is willing to become their manager...

Sven Goran Eriksson was again linked with Blackburn Rovers manager yesterday, although the Lancashire club declined to discuss the situation...

Six weeks from drip to debut

David Plummer on a remarkable turnabout for the 32-year-old Wales lock Mark Rowley

SIX weeks ago Mark Rowley was on a drip in a hospital bed, playing for Wales was no forenoon on his mind. A cut on his leg had turned septic and, had the problem not been diagnosed when it was, not only his rugby career but his life would have been threatened...

but injuries took Mike Voyle and Andy Moore out of the reckoning. At the same time there was such a furore in Pontypridd over the absence of the club's players against the Wallabies...



Rowley... septic leg

Wallaby coach gives Dwyer sharp piece of his mind

Ian MacIn

AUSTRALIA'S coach Greg Smith labelled critics of his side's unbeaten European tour as 'treacherous and traitorous' and singled out his predecessor Bob Dwyer for an extraordinary attack...

England A 20, South Africa A 35

Krige punishes sloppy defence

Michael Prestage at Kingsholm

ANOTHER day, another England A, and this time the weakest side of their early tour surrendered an 18-month unbeaten record...

Roux, then Meyer received yellow cards for stamping. The victim on both occasions was Grewecock and the first incident sparked a flurry of lists...

Shearer in the running for Fifa Player of the Year

ALAN SHEARER, whose 16 goals in Euro 96 led to the world-record £15 million transfer from Blackburn to Newcastle last summer, is in line to win Fifa's Player of the Year award...

the verge of becoming the highest-paid player in the world by agreeing a £25 million 10-year deal with Barcelona.

Sport in brief

Rowing

Steve Redgrave MBE, holder of 10 Olympic and world golds and 15 Henley medals, has been elected a Steward of Henley Royal Regatta...

Rugby Union

Nine Newbury players have now contracted a bacterial infection that causes a rash of boils. Their Pilkington Cup fourth-round tie with Lydney on Saturday has been postponed...

Results

Soccer

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE Premier Division Dundee (H) 2 Aberdeen (A) 1

Golf

PGA national golf week will be held next April (21-27) to boost the game's popularity in Britain...

Rugby Union

CONTRACT MATCHES England A 20, South Africa A 35

Basketball

SEMI-FINALS Orlando Magic 75, Philadelphia 76ers 74

Hockey

CHAMPIONS CUP (Sweden): Sweden 2, Canada 1

Boxing

PROFESSIONAL BELL (Stephen and Cobby) Southern Area Middleweight Title...

Cricket

TESTS Kenya 287 and South Africa 177 and 127-6 (in Centurion)

Chess

LAS PALMAS Rd Three A Karjov (Rus) v V Anand (Ind)

Ice Hockey

OLYMPIC QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT: Great Britain 7-0, Netherlands 1-0

Snooker

GERMAN OPEN (Germany): 1st round: H. Hendrick (Eng) 5-1, M. Williams (Wls) 5-1

Fixtures

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: Lewes 0, Exeter 2

Rugby Union

CONTRACT MATCHES: Worcester 24, Bath 17

Ice Hockey

OLYMPIC QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT: Great Britain 7-0, Netherlands 1-0

LANNON Lewis's manager Frank Maloney yesterday applauded Ernest Hemingway's decision to reject a coaching job with the Toronto Raptors...

The colourful American basketball player Dennis Rodman, parade-haired star of the Chicago Bulls, was yesterday

suspended without pay for two games - a matter of \$104,816 (\$33,000) for snubbing on US television...

Ireland's plans to stage the 2005 Ryder Cup moved a major step forward yesterday after Sport Ireland and PGA Europe...

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

Cricket

Tour match: Matabeleland v England XI

Gough red-hot and over the rainbow

David Hoppe in Bulawayo

AS DARREN GOUGH, all red-faced and boisterous, completed the five-wicket performance that might yet herald the rejuvenation of his England career, a rainbow struggled to appear behind him. It was not the most awesome of its kind, and it survived for only a couple of overs, but it was a suitable metaphor for a fast bowler whose career has lurched between crock and crock of gold.

Gough's rainbow consists entirely of red. Do not ever

Scorecard for the match between Matabeleland and England XI. Includes batting and bowling figures for both teams.



Making his point... Darren Gough appeals unsuccessfully for lbw against the Matabeleland batsman Mark Dekker

expect the blues and yellows of considered analysis. Here is a glorious fast-bowling redneck, entirely consumed by a red-blooded approach which can lift hearts one day and frustrate minds the next.

still requiring three more runs to avoid the follow-on. England's desire for further batting practice will preclude any possibility of its being enforced.

Scarborough in August. Vaghmaria wisely batted in shirt-sleeves yesterday and trusted to memory loss, but to no avail. Gough's first ball, eloquently short, caused him to retreat to square leg, the next demolished his stumps. Even Fred Trueman could not have expressed himself better.

He was on a hat-trick in his first spell, the first wicket coming fortunately as Guy Whittall hacked a long hop to cover, his second more impressively so as Ranchood was unimpaired by a shortish, hostile delivery. The hat-trick ball to James was a non-event.

On the boundary, he curses that the ball does not swing, or swings too much, or swings the wrong way. He responds to every false shot with a look of incredulity. He is up for the challenge.

the blockhole, bowling Andy Whittall in his third spell just before the close. He finished the English season strongly last summer, collecting 67 first-class wickets at 22 each, and his cutting edge is desperately needed.

Symonds snubs Gloucester

unless he returns to Bristol as an overseas player. "I am an Aussie and always have been," he said yesterday. "It is a financial thing but money to me is not everything. It wasn't very tough for me because I have it in my heart that I have always been an Aussie. I love living in Australia. I love the lifestyle and I think I always will."

The decision comes a year after he rejected a place on England A's tour of Pakistan, but it will be felt most keenly by Gloucestershire. With their one overseas-player berth taken by the West Indies captain Courtney Walsh, the county now face life without last season's leading run-scorer, who scored a century for

Gloucestershire's cricket secretary Philip August said: "Betrayed would be much too strong a word, but we spent most of last season seeking assurances from Andrew about his playing future, and this is obviously disappointing."

The England A coach Mike Gatting said: "I'm glad he's made a decision at last. He's held his hands up and said he wants to play for Australia, which is the best way to do it rather than keeping everybody guessing."

Tour match: Queensland v England A

Headley injury hampers England

MIKE GATTING has been straining at the leash to get on to the field for England A throughout his first tour as a coach. But he would not have chosen the circumstances under which he went on as a substitute fielder after tea because of injuries to Dean Headley and Mark Balham.

three wickets to end with six for 70 on his first-class debut. Headley's nine-over opening burst lacked the zip, movement and inspiration of Adelaide; he surprised the left-hander Troy Dixon with extra bounce and Warren Flegg took a spectacular leg-side catch but England's appeal was turned down and almost immediately Headley left the field. Balham followed after dropping Dixon on 24 and Trevor Bardsby on 22 before trapping the wicket lbw, all in the space of three overs.

Ski Hotline

Advertisement for Ski Hotline providing the latest snow and weather reports from 200 resorts in Europe and North America. Includes a phone number (0891 002 006) and a list of ski resorts.

Rugby League

Swelling of Rhino ranks as three Eagles land at Leeds

THE strengthening of Leeds Rhinos continues apace with the signing of three players from Sheffield Eagles. Moving the shortish journey up the M1 yesterday were the 21-year-old Ryan Abernethy and the 19-year-old Dean Lawford, who can both play scrum-half or stand-off.

Test centre Richie Blackmore and the former Hull winger Paul Stirling. Doyle began his professional career with Wynnun-Manly in Brisbane and went on to play for the Sydney clubs St George and Eastern Suburbs. Initially a stand-off, he switched to the back row.

Azharuddin's ton inspires India

AN UNBREATHEN 163 by their former captain Mohammad Azharuddin helped India to the verge of a first victory in a series against South Africa in the deciding Test in Kapurthala. The South Africans, set an improbable target of 481 to win, had slumped to 127

Last posting day for Xmas



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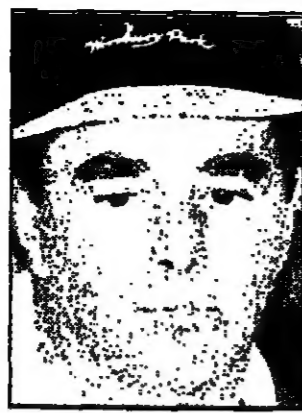
Danger horses hoofed out, page 13

Newcastle set new French test, page 14

True Gritt moves to Brighton, page 14

Gough blows away the doubts, page 15

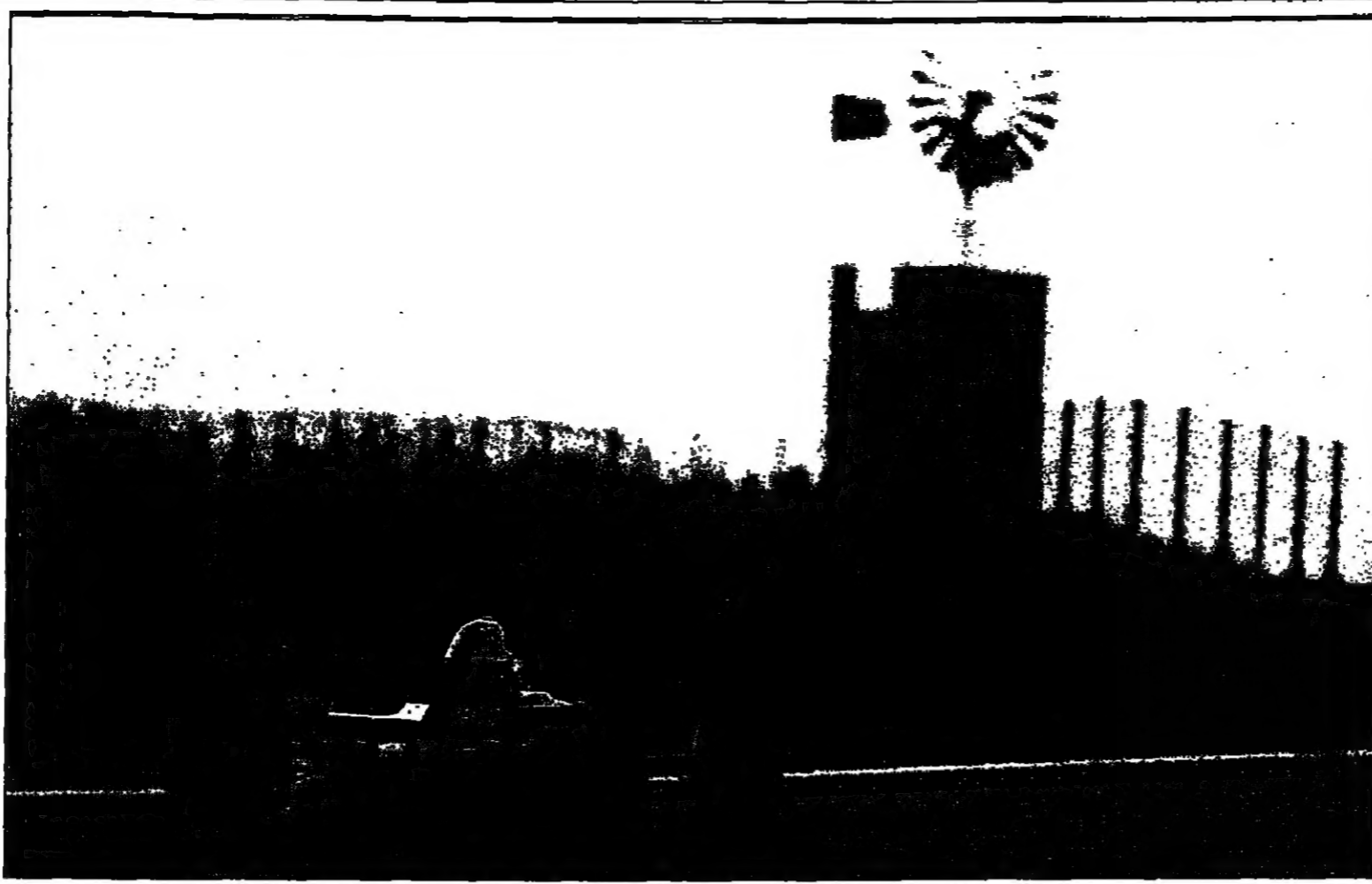
# SportsGuardian



Mansell... a brisk 49 laps

The former world champion returns to the cockpit after 18 months of driving only on the golf course

Frank Keating reports from Barcelona



Burning rubber again... Mansell was within 0.5sec of Jordan-Peugeot's nominated driver Ralf Schumacher

PHOTOGRAPH: MIKE COOPER

## Old dog Mansell back on track

THE old dog thinks he can still do the trick — and top lick too. Nigel Mansell, at 43, climbed into a Formula One racing car near Barcelona yesterday and put in 49 increasingly impressive laps at a snarling din which obviously meant business. It is 18 months since the former world champion has driven at remotely such speed. If the money is right and the car competitive he may well put his life on the line again next year. On the face of it, however, it officially remains a 50-50 chance that Mansell will be in the Jordan car on 1997's first starting grid in Melbourne

next March 9 alongside Michael Schumacher's tearaway younger brother Ralf, around whom the team are said to be building their future. Both Mansell and the team owner Eddie Jordan admitted yesterday that there was a great deal of talking still to be done — not least by their respective bank managers. Yesterday Mansell's fastest lap was 1min 22.88sec compared with young Schumacher's 1:22.59 — some going for the ancient Brit, for he was starting from cold, having played no more than golf all year or had a turn on his kids' Scalextric. Schumacher has already clocked up almost

2,000 miles in testing his car. Mansell, as he ever engagingly was, climbed out full of his own conceit. "Ralf's very quick and committed, and he holds serious blocking cards. His agent and brother are apparently unhappy at the possibility of the prodigy being upstaged, and that may ing up process by both parties. For sure, the Jordan team need some headlines and publicity-pulling power; certainly their sponsors do. And if nothing else, Mansell down the long years has written his own headlines. He is a star all right, but stars cost money and a multi-millionaire will be asking for more multi-millions. Would the comparatively low-budget Jordan team break the bank to sign him up? "Only in a realistic way," said Jordan. "Nigel's degree of reality and mine in that respect are probably two different things. There is still a huge amount of talking to be done and it will be weeks before any firm announcement either way."

Mansell concurred: "For me, today was eight out of 10. The engine goes very well. With or without me, Jordan have a real future. "I have to form a relationship with a car, to trust it implicitly before I can push it deep into corners. It takes time, certainly after nearly two years. You have to get used to braking from 200 to 60 in less than two seconds when all you have been doing is getting your golf handicap down from five to one in 12 months. "Was fame the spur? "Not so much that. The sport just remains in my blood. It was a day full of portent but also of memories. This

was the track on which only last year Mansell had made his dramatic departure from the McLaren team, running too far down the field for a former champion. He retired to Devon and his golf. End of story? Those in the know knew better — and yesterday the whiff of the pit-lane fumes had brought him back. Mmmm, like a Bisto kid... Same old Nigel, except that he's shaved off his "Your-country-needs-me" moustache. By the time he had clamped himself into the cockpit and buckled on his old Union Jack helmet, a sparkling Spanish morning had turned into a pewtery-grey English-like afternoon. Now the sombre quiet was lit by the screech of Mansell's engine. The car's livery is the dull old-gold of Benson & Hedges, Jordan's main sponsor. There is talk that B & H will fund Mansell's salary on its own. Or even the F1 ringmaster Bernie Ecclestone. A Brit at the front is a best-seller for the series. Mansell recalled his last-time debacle here. "I didn't retire. I just stood down. Since when I've enjoyed it in no man's land, working on my golf and reflecting on life. If you've never lost the urge to drive fast, what have I to regret? If I'd lost it I would have ended up today in a wall on the very first lap. I didn't, so I've still got it."

ing up process by both parties. For sure, the Jordan team need some headlines and publicity-pulling power; certainly their sponsors do. And if nothing else, Mansell down the long years has written his own headlines. He is a star all right, but stars cost money and a multi-millionaire will be asking for more multi-millions. Would the comparatively low-budget Jordan team break the bank to sign him up? "Only in a realistic way," said Jordan. "Nigel's degree of reality and mine in that respect are probably two different things. There is still a huge amount of talking to be done and it will be weeks before any firm announcement either way."

## Where are all the charging full-backs?



Frank Keating

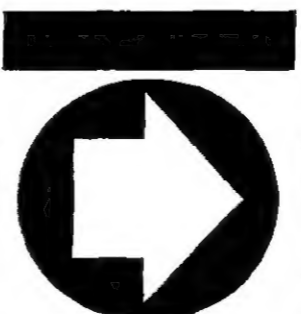
CHRISTIAN CULLEN charmed the birds from the Twickenham rafters with his irresistible counter-attacking for the New Zealand Barbarians a fortnight ago. The England team could only gawp at the young full-back. The same weekend at Cardiff, the Australian No. 13 Matt Burke took a discerning Welsh throng's breath away with his angled steam-hammer runs out of defence, a feat he repeated against the bewildered Barbarians in London the following Saturday. Both these dagger-sharp athletes are brim-full of the daring and bonny bravado of youth. Their teams are constructed around them. Indeed, today's all-court rugby puts the full-back first on the team sheet in every sense. At Cardiff this Sunday the full-back in the Springboks' myrtle-green shirt will be Andre Joubert. He is a different sort of counter-attacker, of less boyish gusto but such stealth and subtlety that he probably remains the best of this trio of No. 15s from the southern hemisphere. England's latest choice for this style-defining position, however, is Nick Beal, a utility club player and occasional full-back, while Wales have chosen Neil Jenkins, a veteran who has played all his club and international rugby at fly-half or centre. It is potty; there is something gravely wrong here. It was bad luck that England's Tim Stimpson was concussed after 20 minutes' play on Saturday. Burke was just up and running and his master-class in full-back play would have been an invaluable eye-opener for the Newcastle tyro. The following day an esteemed Sunday-paper writer selected a Northern Hemisphere XV to play the South; that Stimpson, on the strength of one Test cap, was chosen as full-back says it all. Where have Europe's full-backs gone? Alpha and Omega, defences into attack in a spontaneous and intrepid matter of strides. It was noticeable in Cardiff a fortnight ago that whereas Burke was gloriously rampaging with the wind in his hair, Wales' full-back Proctor accepted only

two clear chances to run back the ball but wasted them both, plunging straight at the wall of ochre jerseys and being scruggled without mercy. England stutteringly won the championship last season with Mike Catt, a club fly-half, at full-back. In the first five minutes of the opening match in Paris he made two brave incursions, then retired to the last line of defence to be seen in attack no more. The fly-half at full-back is neither fish nor fowl. This is a position for a voluptuary, and England will continue to labour until they find one. France have never remotely been the great team they were since Serge Blanco, a true *maestro d'instinct*, went away. Scotland still mourn the loss of Gavin Hastings's gallumph and nerve. Before him, Andy Irvine remains memory's treasure, and so in the red shirt does the nonpareil JPR Williams — the incomparable Japes, socks down, hair flying, all boldness and brass neck. Mind you, though JPR was the founder of the modern feast, his flair was nothing new under rugby's wintry sun. It was there simply because it had not been coached out of him. Nor was Arthur Marsberg's; that great counter-attacking full-back was introduced to north by south fully 90 years ago, and when we witness another Joubert tutorial at Cardiff on Sunday it will be an exact anniversary of the 1906 Springboks' first match against Wales. It was at St Helen's, with Marsberg at full-back, and South Africa won 11-0. "It was matchless," O. L. Owen wrote in the Times. "Time and again Marsberg would hurl himself at the ball in the manner of an Association goalkeeper. To see him dive into a forward rush or crash-tackle a single runner was indeed a thrill and a fearful joy, and each time his counter-attack was truly thunderous." IN THE South Wales Argus the legendary Dromio was also shaken and stirred. "Never was there a man in this position who played the 'reck or nothing' game with such considered daring," he wrote. "Marsberg went forward, ever forward, when any other man would have waited to dash in and counter-attack. His picking-up was amazing, and it was cheerful courage too, a genuine originality." Marsberg became head of security at the De Beers mining company in Kimberley. He was an expert trainer of the ferocious Rhodesian ridge-back and albatron guard dogs, two other foreign breeds aware that counter-attack is the vital play.

# A milder taste of happiness



SMOKING CAUSES HEART DISEASE  
Chief Medical Officers' Warning



Aids has been a terrible gift. It has taught many ordinary people — people, in many cases, who had always been forced to think of themselves as cowardly, frivolous and weak — how to be brave. It has given artists and writers a tremendous strength. But it has done so at the cost of killing. Philip Hensher

Books G2 page 9

### Guardian Crossword No 20,834

Set by Orlando

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30

- Across**
- 7 Half-hearted evangelist's conflict with Muslim leader (8)
  - 9 Thought one goes in off (6)
  - 10 To play legato is a discredit to one's reputation (4)
  - 11 Brown and green is wrong for fruit (10)
  - 12 Poet caught by power failure? (6)
  - 14 Combine solid exterior with smooth interior (8)
  - 15 Polish language, audible (6)
  - 17 Georgia carrying torch for composer (6)
  - 20 An old soldier is not so good without a right hand (8)
  - 22 Flock and roll at labe (6)
  - 23 Driver taking poor teacher round city (10)
  - 24 Appear in entertainment (4)
  - 25 Lament about girl's rent (6)
- Down**
- 1 Hector removed at start of game (5-3)
  - 2 Drink to be set before the queen (4)
  - 3 Loudly change flag (6)
  - 4 Diabolical Lenin? Far from it (8)
  - 5 Multiplication in Sunday school for youngsters (10)
  - 6 Concealed lid on top of tin (6)
  - 8 Is able to rise in low principality (6)
  - 13 Groggy when beverage gets imbibed (5-5)
  - 16 Stone or sand shaped with axes (8)
  - 18 No body in college? (3,5)
  - 19 Dope has time for classes (8)
- Solution tomorrow**
- 21 Swimmer initially approaches Hero waving on land (6)
- 22 Quarrel excluding French martial (6)
- 24 Fish with a portion of chips — haddock, perhaps (4)

صوتنا من الامل